Issue 3/2019

Focus on stamps
The Collector's Magazine

Animals around the world

+

Hand lettering – calligraphy
+ The art of brewing beer
+ Traditional costumes
+ much more

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Cover image: Internationally renowned poster artist Claude Kuhn is happy to have his name on the striking animal-themed special stamps he designed.
Photo: Thomas Rathgeb

Dear stamp lovers

Just over three years ago I moved to a different job within Swiss Post, giving me the opportunity to work on stamps for the first time. After my induction period, I started on the first stamp project of my own six months later as a junior product manager. At first, it was a huge challenge to switch from purely administrative day-to-day tasks to working on projects which last almost a year. But over the past few years, I've gained a great deal of experience, met some interesting people, discovered many enthralling stories and, of course, organized many wonderful stamp projects, such as "50 years Ballenberg" and "Animal friends".
During a fascinating tour by the chief architect responsible for looking after the cathedral, I explored the history of this ancient building in August 2018 as part of the "1000 years Basel cathedral" project. I can now finally reveal the results in this issue of "Focus on stamps".
My colleagues are also presenting exciting stamps in this issue, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing them all. One of these is the "Hand lettering – calligraphy" stamp. It's ideal for all those letters, invitations and greetings that I write and send to my loved ones in an attractive envelope with a seal. Another highlight is the stamps on the art of brewing beer. As a woman who prefers regional and special beers to wine, I'm looking forward not just to sampling the beer, but also being able to send it on a stamp in future. The "Animals around the world" set is very uplifting. The exotic animals featured on these stamps are depicted in an extraordinary, bold style. Have you ever seen any of these animals in real life? I hope you do get the opportunity to see them one day – not just on a stamp, but in their natural habitat.

I also hope you enjoy discovering the new stamps and would like to thank you for your interest in our magazine.

Simona Lanz
Product Manager
Stamps & Philately

Issuing programme

Issue date: 14 November 2019 / Featured in: Focus on stamps 4/2019

No.	Value	Description
2	**2.75**	**Special stamps** **Pro Juventute – 30 years children's rights**
	0.85+0.40	Listening
	1.00+0.50	Bringing happiness
1	**1.00**	**Miniature sheet** Typical Swiss countryside – Val Mora
2	**1.85**	**Special stamps** **Social diversity**
	0.85	Crowd of people
	1.00	Community puzzle

No.	Value	Description
4	**5.35**	**Special stamps** **Christmas**
	0.85	Gift
	1.00	Snowflake
	1.50	Candle
	2.00	Star
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Winter Youth Olympic Games 2020
1	**1.50**	**Miniature sheet** Stamp Day 2019 Bulle

Subject to change. As at: June 2019

Event calendar

Month	Key	Date	Location	Event
September	**I**	**5.9**		**Issue date**
October	F	4.10		Focus on stamps 4/2019 – the stamp magazine
	TF/E	24–26.10	Sindelfingen	International Stamp Show
November	TF/E	8–10.11	Luxembourg	Multilateral Luxembourg
	TF/E	7–9.11	Paris	73rd Salon Philatélique d'Automne
	I	**14.11**		**Issue date**
	TF/E	22–24.11	Verona	Veronafil 2019
	SS+	28.11–1.12	Bulle	Stamp Day 2019
December	SS+	12–13.12	Berne-Bethlehem	Christmas branch

The right to make updates and changes is reserved. The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/stamps.

Key

I	Issue date for stamps/postal stationery
F	Focus on stamps (stamp magazine)
TF/E	Trade fair/exhibition
SS+	Sales stand with cancellation service

Focus on stamps publication details 3/2019

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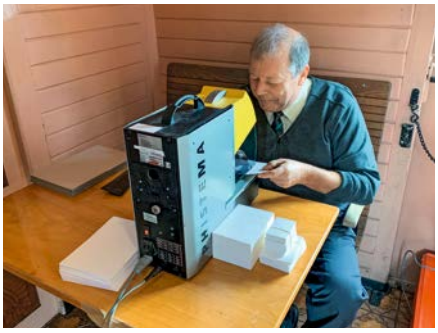
Swiss Post modernized its consignment preparation in March 2018. For quality assurance reasons, the process is increasingly being handled by machines in Swiss Post's letter and logistics centers. Under this procedure, letters are mainly cancelled in these centers. If required, it is of course still possible to come to a counter in person to have letters cancelled with a date postmark or, where available, a promotional postmark. Please contact staff at the counter in your branch.

Stamp presentation and special branch “150 years Lake Line + train ferry”

Under clear blue skies and sunshine, Swiss Post unveiled its new “150 years Lake Line + train ferry” stamps and presented them to the “150 Years of the Lake Constance Lake Line” organizational committee. The presentation was part of a celebratory event held on the ferry in Romanshorn on Thursday, 2 May 2019, the first issue date of the two special stamps. Numerous guests, philatelists and representatives from politics and the media gathered to listen to a welcome address by Werner Fritschi, member of the “150 years of the Lake Constance Lake Line” organizational committee, some words from patronage committee president Claudius Graf-Schelling, and a speech by Benel Kallen, Head of Stamps & Philately Product Management at Swiss Post. The two special stamps were presented to the representatives of the organizational committee by Swiss Post and designer Willi Spirig.

The Lake Constance region was in celebratory mood throughout the entire weekend, with exciting activities available for guests from near and far. Historic ships crossed Lake Constance, while nostalgia-filled trains (such as the Churchill from the 1930s) provided leisurely journeys. There was also plenty on offer for stamp lovers: Swiss Post sold stamps and philatelic products – some of which sold out very quickly – at the special branch set up in a travelling post office. The designer also signed lots of autographs, receiving congratulations from many people.
Not even the wintry weather could put a dampener on a fantastic event.



Large photo below: Werner Fritschi. Other photos: Benel Kallen

Giraffe

Zebra

Flamingo

Meerkat

Animals around the world

An internationally acclaimed poster artist was secured for the design of the four "Animals around the world" special stamps. Claude Kuhn is a master of reduction – and surprising use of colour.

After a broad-based education, Claude Kuhn, born in 1948, worked as a graphic artist, art director and exhibition designer at the Natural History Museum in Berne for 40 years. He has also worked as a freelance designer, causing a stir with his sports posters (boxing and fencing) in particular. Kuhn's work is regularly exhibited abroad. He has an impressive array of awards and prizes to his name. But those he has won at various international poster triennials are the most important to him. He was particularly pleased to be crowned sports artist of the year in 1992.

The motifs of the special stamps depict exotic animals from all over the world in the bold and surprising style that is typical of Kuhn. The common thread running through the set is the ellipsis. In the "Meerkat" design, it symbolizes burrows and clouds; on the "Flamingo" stamp, a puddle; in the "Giraffe" motif, a treetop; and on the "Zebra" variant, it represents the veldt and the animal's droppings – in gold, of course, as this is a "golden zebra".

The animal in me

How much animal is there in humans? And what makes animals different from us? Who boasts the title of "pride of creation"? An exhibition in the Dählhölzli zoo and at the BearPark in Berne explores these issues – with stories about dog dirt and daily newspapers, ducks' feet and antifreeze agents, beavers' teeth and our own gnashers, and leopards' sleep and sleep coaching. Berne Animal Park is breaking new ground for zoos with this project. Comparisons like these produce no end of surprises, offbeat perspectives, humour and inspiration – it's all beastly good fun! A project by Claude Kuhn, Simon Haller (Expoforum) and Berne Animal Park.

Until 31 December 2019, tierpark-bern.ch

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A267 150	A267 550	3.70
Set of blocks of four	A267 160	A267 560	14.80
Sheet of 10 stamps			
0.85 Giraffe	A267 361	A267 381	8.50
0.85 Zebra	A267 362	A267 382	8.50
1.00 Flamingo	A267 363	A267 383	10.00
1.00 Meerkat	A267 364	A267 384	10.00
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A267 580	4.60
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A267 600	7.30
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A267 630	18.40
Unstamped cover C6	A267 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A267 640	A267 650	4.50

Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 29.8.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last Branches: from 5.9.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 5.9.2019
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 2 × 28 × 33 mm and 2 × 33 ×28 mm Sheet: 5 rows of 2 stamps
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²
Perforation	Serpentine cut (4 sides)
Design	Claude Kuhn, Berne

Photo: Thomas Rathgeb

An interview with Claude Kuhn

Mr Kuhn, what was it like for you as a poster artist to create something as small as a stamp?
Designing a stamp is not vastly different from working on posters. As reduction and omitting anything that's not essential is a key part of what I do, it was actually quite straightforward. A poster should also be able to work as a stamp, and vice-versa! The reading distance is less, but I don't want to have to use a magnifying glass.

Your style is immediately recognizable here. Are there other typical traits apart from reduction?
The colour scheme is also typical of my work. For example, I don't necessarily feel I have to use shades of brown to depict the zebra moving across the veldt. Grey as a neutral colour between black and white works just as well. Then there's the use of ellipsis as a running joke.

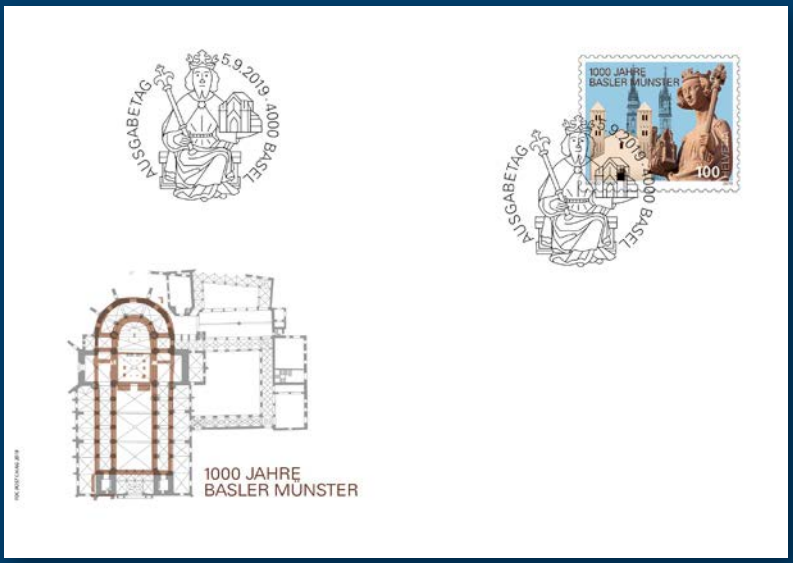
Who are the stamps designed to appeal to?
Everyone! I believe that good design should work just as well in a children's nursery as in an old people's home. That's my ethos. Animals are ideally suited to this – and good colours, too.

1000 years Basel cathedral

On 11 October 1019, a sacred building which is today known as the Heinrichs-Münster was consecrated in Basel. Alongside many bishops, the occasion was also attended by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry II, the founder of the church.

To mark the 1,000th anniversary, a special stamp focusing on Henry II has been created. The motif is based on a photograph of his statue at the main entrance of the modern-day cathedral. The building originally founded by Henry in the 13th century can be seen on the left. This is a reconstruction based on the findings of recent architectural research. Of Henry's cathedral itself, all that remains to be seen above ground today is a few light-coloured stone sections in George's Tower. In the background of the stamp, an illustration can be seen. This shows the towers of the west facade of the modern-day cathedral, reconstructed in Gothic style after the earthquake of 1356. The sheetlet is adorned with beaver tail tiles, like those found on the cathedral roof. The diamond-shaped pattern is typical of medieval roofs.
In addition to many other activities marking the 1,000th anniversary of Basel cathedral, a comprehensive monograph of this significant church building is being published.

Sheetlet of 8 stamps



Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 29.8.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last Branches: from 5.9.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 5.9.2019
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 33×28 mm Sheetlet: 192×95 mm (2 rows of 4 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¾:14¼
Design	Marco Trüeb, Basel

Who was Emperor Henry II?

Henry II lived from 973 or 978 to 1024. In 1014, he and his wife, Cunigunde of Luxembourg, were crowned Holy Roman Emperor and Empress by Pope Benedict VIII in Rome.
The Pope presented him with a golden orb adorned with a cross – the earliest evidence of the "globus cruciger".
As Henry and Cunigunde's marriage was childless, he was the last emperor from the Ottonian dynasty. After inheriting Basel from Rudolph III, the King of Burgundy, Henry II patronized the city, which had a population of around 2,000 at that time. He incorporated it into the Holy Roman Empire and bestowed land, estates and liturgical gifts on it.

Photo: Oliver Hochstrasser, Basel

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Single stamp	A268 150	A268 550	1.00
Block of four	A268 160	A268 560	4.00
Sheetlet of 8 stamps	A268 311	A268 351	8.00
Covers			
Single stamp on first-day cover C6		A268 580	1.90
Block of four on first-day cover C6		A268 630	4.90
Sheetlet on first-day cover C5		A268 590	9.20
Unstamped covers/sheetlets			
C6 (162×114 mm)	A268 700		0.90
C5 (229×162 mm)	A268 701		1.20
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A268 640	A268 650	1.80

Hand lettering – calligraphy

Calligraphy (the art of beautiful script) and hand lettering (artistic, creative writing) are very much in vogue. Both topics are featured on the special stamp in a vibrant yet precise way.

People who wish to show their special appreciation to recipients still write their letters by hand – and more and more are doing so. Personal handwriting is not just an expression of someone's personality, but also indicates that the writer values their message to the recipient. Even in the age of e-mail and WhatsApp, the art of beautiful writing is making a comeback. That's why the special stamp designed by Rebekka Moser, an artist from Thun, focuses on this art form.
The stamp motif features the words "precious messages" in five languages and five different fonts. This allows the senders of such messages to frank their letters in an appropriate style.
The stamp aims to inspire people to write and, in particular, to use personal calligraphy. It's also certain to delight the Swiss Calligraphy Society, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Single stamp	A269 150	A269 550	1.00
Block of four	A269 160	A269 560	4.00
Sheet of 20 stamps	A269 111	A269 511	20.00
Covers			
Single stamp on first-day cover C6		A269 580	1.90
Block of four on first-day cover C6		A269 630	4.90
Unstamped cover C6	A269 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A269 640	A269 650	1.80

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 29.8.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last Branches: from 5.9.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 5.9.2019
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamps: 28×33 mm Sheet: 140×194 mm (5 rows of 4 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼
Design	Rebekka Moser, Thun

Interview with Rebekka Moser

Ms Moser, this special stamp project is the first time you've created small-format art. What was the greatest challenge when designing the stamp?
The major design challenge was actually the size of the stamp. It was no mean feat to arrange five lines of text in different fonts and ensure the text remained readable while still producing a coherent, harmonious picture.

What was your approach to producing the stamp motif?
My first step was to create the text lines using various templates and piece them together like a puzzle. After discussing the initial drafts with the product manager, I set about creating the definitive stamp motif. As I drew or wrote everything by hand, I had to work extremely carefully, ensuring my mind was fully focused. I couldn't draw the motif in 1:1 format. The template was magnified sevenfold for production. So I had to keep on trying to envisage the stamp in the original format. When it was finally reproduced on a few square centimetres, it confirmed what I'd imagined – and the outcome speaks for itself.

Hand lettering is currently very much in vogue. Do you think this trend will continue?
I suspect it will. There's huge interest in courses and training opportunities. It's a popular pastime, especially for women, and an enjoyable form of creative expression. There is also a trend towards adding more colour. Hand lettering techniques are also changing and developing. From traditional script to spray techniques, the methods are very diverse.

I'm sure you also like writing letters and postcards yourself. How does it feel to now be able to use your "own" stamps on them?
I feel a whole host of different emotions when sticking my "own" stamps onto my letters. It fills me with great pride that I have created a small piece of art which conveys messages – far beyond national borders. I feel honoured to have been given the privilege of designing a stamp.

Which other work – apart from the stamp – are you especially proud of and why?
All of my work is original – there are no copies. That means every piece is individual and unique, which I find tremendously satisfying. But I have very fond memories of a piece I produced before Easter – I painted different motifs and texts on 35 goose eggs. The curve of the eggs took a lot of getting used to and proved extremely challenging. They were also very fragile. After many hours of work, I managed to complete the project in time for Easter – all of the eggs remained intact, and the customer was delighted.

Rebekka Moser
Born in 1967 in Aeschi bei Spiez, where she also grew up. The artist lives in Thun and is passionately devoted to her creative pursuits – not just hand lettering, but also decoration and arts and crafts. She finds inspiration during her frequent travels with her partner.

Lager beer

Dark beer

The art of brewing beer

The art of brewing is almost as old as human civilization itself and is a key part of our culture. At the moment, beer is particularly fashionable. What more reason do we need to dedicate two special stamps to the beverage and its master brewers?

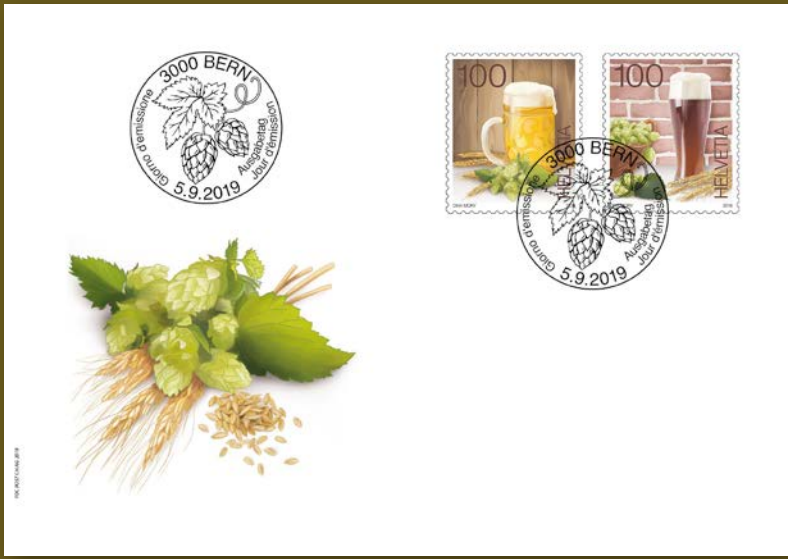
"Beer is an alcoholic, carbonated drink made of water, malted grain, yeast, hops and other ingredients, produced through the alcoholic fermentation process," according to the Swiss Ordinance on Beverages. But beer is so much more than that. Many people see it as the epitome of conviviality and pleasure – and it's most definitely part of our culture. The origins of the art of brewing can be traced back to around 4,000 BC.

For some time now, beer has been enjoying a boom: the number of breweries in Switzerland has increased steadily over recent years. There are now over 900 in operation. This means Switzerland has one of the greatest concentrations of breweries in the world. Brewing your very own beer at home has even become a hobby.

The new special stamps celebrate the craft of brewing as part of cultural heritage. However, they are most definitely not intended as encouragement to overindulge!

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A270 150	A270 550	2.00
Set of blocks of four	A270 160	A270 560	8.00
Sheetlet of 8 stamps	A270 311	A270 351	8.00
The sheet includes 2 × 4 stamps with the "Lager beer" and "Dark beer" motifs. Motifs not available individually.			
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A270 580	2.90
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A270 600	3.80
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A270 630	9.80
Sheetlet on first-day cover C5		A270 590	9.20
Unstamped covers/sheetlets C6 (162×114 mm) C5 (229×162 mm)	 A270 700 A270 701		 0.90 1.20
Unstamped cover C6	A260 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A270 640	A270 650	2.80



Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 29.8.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last Branches: from 5.9.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 5.9.2019
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein
Sizes	Stamps: 28×33 mm Sheetlet: 192×115 mm (2 rows of 4 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13½:13¼
Design	Dina Mory, Zurich

Sheetlet of 8 stamps

Miniature sheet

Lötschental Fribourg Valle Verzasca Engadin

Traditional Swiss costumes

Swiss costumes have a long tradition and are known for their extraordinary variety. They are a valuable part of our national cultural heritage. This is illustrated by historical examples depicted on four stamps, produced as a se-tenant on the miniature sheet.

A remarkable collection of traditional costumes can be found at the Swiss National Museum. Much of it was gifted by the costume researcher Julie Heierli. The Atelier Müller Lütolf in Berne, which is experienced in philately, has selected four examples from this collection to feature on the stamps. Left to right:

Lötschental: a costume as it was worn until well into the 19th century in Lötschental in Valais. The sleeves that extend only to the elbow are a distinctive feature of the outfit. A shirt was worn underneath the costume, while a garland typically adorned the head. The apron is made of printed cotton.

Fribourg: a procession costume from the 19th century. The large amulet (the "Ginge") and the puffy sleeves are typical features. The costume is still seen in Düdingen, Tafers and Heitenried at the "Kränzlitöchter" tradition, where it is worn by unmarried women along with the "Schapel", an ornately decorated headdress.

Valle Verzasca: a Sunday costume as worn in the Valle Maggia at the beginning of the 19th century. Like all traditional costumes, it reflected the fashion of the day. As such, the high empire cut worn below the breast is a typical aspect of the design.

Engadin: this costume dates from the late 18th century. As it is also influenced by the fashion of the period, it is called a Graubünden "rococo costume". It is accompanied by the "Capadüsli" hat and is still made today. Costumes from this region are documented and looked after by the Graubünden costume association.

Image source for stamps:
Swiss National Museum

Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 29.8.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last Branches: sales at stamp counters only, until 30.9.2020 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 5.9.2019
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamps: 4 × 34.7×36.5 mm Miniature sheet: 149×45 mm (1 row of 4 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	14¼:14
Design	Müller Lütolf, Berne

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Miniature sheet of 4 stamps at CHF 1.00	A272 315	A272 815	4.00
Covers			
Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6		A272 580	4.90
Cover without miniature sheet C6	A272 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A272 640	A272 650	4.80

The revival of traditional costumes

The costumes documented in the five-volume publication "Die Volkstrachten der Schweiz" (The Traditional Costumes of Switzerland) by Julie Heierli (1859–1938) date from the period known as the costume revival: the nation's costumes were revived and standardized during the 1930s by the Swiss Costume Association.

Special stamp

Carl Spitteler 100 years Nobel Prize in Literature 1919–2019

100 years ago, Carl Spitteler became the first and only Swiss person to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. A special stamp in typographical style serves as a reminder of this great honour and of Spitteler's works.

The special stamp created by the Bernese designer Bea Würgler illustrates the "power of words" in a typographical style. Carl Spitteler himself is also featured, in a powerful portrait.

Carl Spitteler, who was born in Liestal in the Canton of Basel-Land in 1845, left behind an impressive literary oeuvre as a novelist, poet and columnist. The theology graduate was also a literary critic, composer, illustrator and teacher.
In 1914, following the outbreak of the First World War, he penned a call for neutrality entitled "Unser Schweizer Standpunkt" (Our Swiss standpoint). This earned him national and international renown – and even impressed the Nobel Prize committee.

The "Carl Spitteler – centenary of the Nobel Prize in Literature" society is holding various events throughout Switzerland in 2019. These highlight the astonishing relevance of Spitteler's work to the present day – many of his writings were critical of xenophobia and excessive national pride, while others addressed the relationship between German and French and High German and dialect.

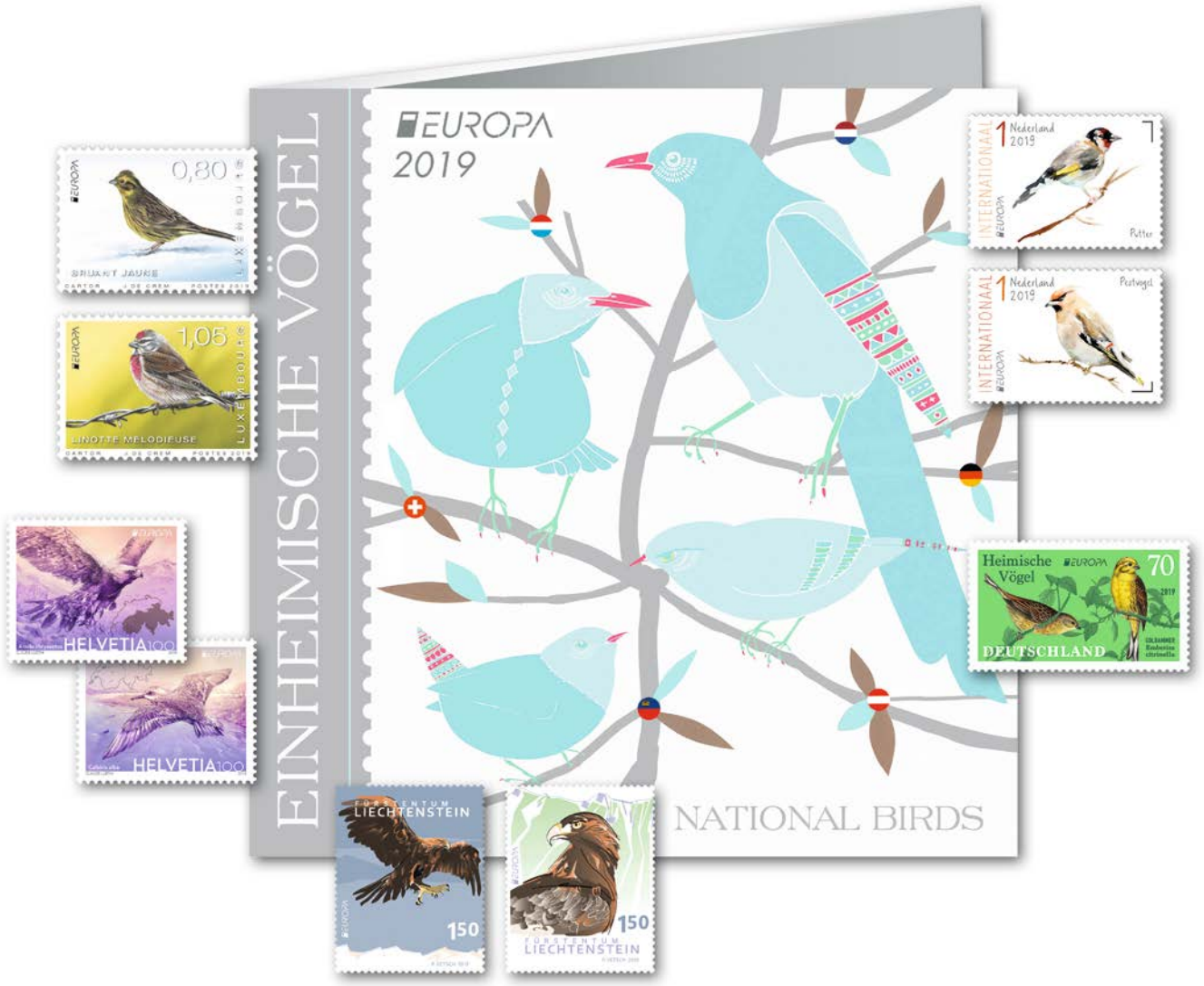
Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Single stamp	A271 150	A271 550	1.00
Block of four	A271 160	A271 560	4.00
Sheet of 20 stamps	A271 111	A271 511	20.00
Covers			
Single stamp on first-day cover C6		A271 580	1.90
Block of four on first-day cover C6		A271 630	4.90
Unstamped cover C6	A271 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A271 640	A271 650	1.80

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 29.8.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last Branches: from 5.9.2019 to 30.9.2020 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 5.9.2019
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamps: 33×28 mm Sheet: 194×140 mm (4 rows of 5 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼:13½
Design	Bea Würgler, Berne

Multilateral set

EUROPA – Birds



This folder includes the ten 2019 EUROPA original stamps for Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. It also contains fascinating information about the birds featured on the stamps. The joint product is only available in German.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Multilateral set			
Joint product	A258 990		19.80

“I’m 12 years old and I collect stamps”

While other 12-year-olds spend their evenings on PlayStations or online, Neel Maurer prefers to collect stamps in his free time. Together with the illustrator of the “50 years manned Moon landing” stamp, we spent an afternoon with the young philatelist.

Few young people are passionate about stamp collecting nowadays. This makes a 12-year-old boy’s decision to start collecting all the more remarkable. When asked why he does it, Neel Maurer gives an straightforward answer: “I just like stamps. I find it especially fascinating that something so small can have such an intricate design.” This fascination has made him one of Switzerland’s youngest stamp collectors.

Philately is not kids’ stuff

Using a collection mailbox he made himself and hung up in the waiting room of his father’s veterinary surgery, Neel quickly built up his collection: “My mailbox is bursting at the seams. Lots of people have even given me entire albums.” He now has to sift through and arrange all 2,000 of these stamps, which he has learned a great deal about through self-study. Benel Kallen, Head of Stamps and Philately Product Management at Swiss Post, gives him a hand during our visit and offers some advice about which of his stamps are likely to increase in value over the coming years. Neel said that young collectors generally receive lots of help from the philately community: “I’m always the youngest by far at collector events and often pick up stamps at a special price. The older collectors think what I’m doing is great.”

Little pieces of art near and far

Stamps create special experiences that appeal to the senses, are socially relevant and are attractive to look at. How they are created is often just as exciting as the result itself. Jwan Reber, for example, had to reinterpret the “50 years manned Moon landing” motif due to copyright issues. During our visit, he showed Neel how he reworks his pencil sketches digitally on the computer. With so much early encouragement, Neel may well delight Switzerland with his own stamp motif one day.

Text: Sandra Gurtner, Photo: Lena Schläppi

Swiss youth philately

According to the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, there are currently around 4,000 registered philatelists in Switzerland. All the hustle and bustle at auctions and stamp exchanges, however, suggests the number may actually be much higher. Despite this, the proportion of people under the age of 50 is low. For this reason, the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies is committed to nurturing interest among young collectors by providing documents for teachers and offering support at the national stamp exhibition Philatelica’19, which will be held in Bulle from 28 November to 1 December 2019.

Colourful stamps

Issue set with single stamps 3/2019

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 3/2019

Annual and special products	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Issue set with single stamps 3/2019			
The single stamps, sets and miniature sheet in the 3/2019 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.	A274 150	A274 550	12.70
Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 3/2019			
The first-day covers with the single stamps, sets and miniature sheet in the 3/2019 issue are combined in one free cover.		A274 580	18.10
2018 year book			
Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book presents all Swiss stamps and first-day cancellations for 2018, along with an exclusive black print, on over 100 pages in four languages (de/fr/it/en).	A225 830	A225 831	69.00
2018 year set			
The Swiss stamps for 2018, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve. The "Papal visit to Switzerland" commemorative stamp dated 21.6.2018 is not included in the year set.	A224 320	A224 820	60.35
2018 year set with first-day covers (FDC)			
The year's first-day covers – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the respective first-day cancellations. The FDC with the "Papal visit to Switzerland" commemorative stamp dated 21.6.2018 is not included in the year set.		A224 530	85.75

2020 stamp catalogues	Art. no.	Price in CHF
Zumstein		
Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva 2020, German/French	A273 725	35.00
Swiss stamp catalogue		
Switzerland 2020, German/French	A273 787	27.00
The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.		

1

Jubilee commemorative Swiss coin

„125 years railway Brienz-Rothorn“!

Ø 30 mm

- Swiss art of coinage with four-color enamel plating „125 years railway Brienz-Rothorn“!
- Worldwide limited edition of 5.000 samples!
- You pay only Fr. 5.- instead of Fr. 19.95!

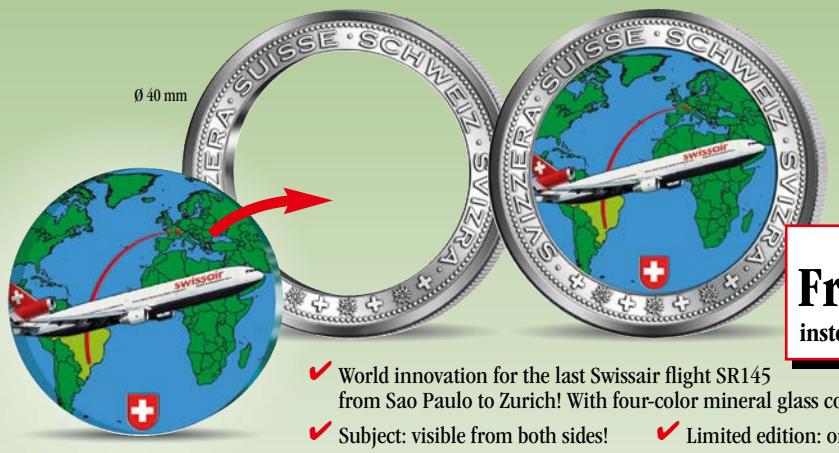
only **Fr. 5.-**
instead of Fr. 19.95

Swiss commemorative coin with mineral glass core „Last Swissair scheduled flight 15 years ago“!

The last Swissair scheduled flight SR145 coming from Sao Paulo landed in Zurich April 1st 2002, 15 years ago. With this worldwide limited Swiss commemorative coin with mineral glass core, we dignify in a special way the last swissair flight back to the home country Switzerland.

2.

Ø 40 mm



only
Fr. 14.90
instead of Fr. 69.90

- World innovation for the last Swissair flight SR145 from Sao Paulo to Zurich! With four-color mineral glass core!
- Subject: visible from both sides!
- Limited edition: only 2.000 samples!

3

First „Lederhosen“-stamp with Swarovski crystals!

New!

Austria,
Nominal value: € 6,30,
Original size:
35 x 42 mm

Official leather stamp from Austria in Tyrolean leather trousers-shape, decorated with 6 (!) Swarovski crystals!

only
Fr. 12.90

4

The first glass stamp!

Original size: 32 x 45 x 2 mm

- New special stamp from Austria „Virgin of Pity under the Cross"! (in mint condition)
- Official limited edition of only 140.000 samples!

only
Fr. 9.90

5

First embroidery-stamp dirndl-shaped!

- The first official embroidery-stamp from Austria, dirndl-shaped!
- About forty meters of thread have been used to realise this tiny philatelic piece of art!
- Fine new quality!

Original size: 31 x 50 mm

only
Fr. 9.90

My order

Yes, please send me following start editions and monthly another edition from the respective collection without obligation and for inspection. I do have a refund policy of 14 days for all deliveries!

1. ___ x Swiss art of coinage with four-color enamel plating **„125 years railway Brienz-Rothorn“** for **only Fr. 5.-!**
2. ___ x Swiss commemorative coin with mineral glass core **„Last Swissair scheduled flight 15 years ago“** for **only Fr. 14.90!**
3. ___ x **First leather stamp in leather trousers-shape** with 6 Swarovski crystals (new) for **only Fr. 12.90!**
4. ___ x **First glass stamp** „Virgin of Pity under the cross“ (new) for **only Fr. 9.90!**
5. ___ x **First embroidery-stamp dirndl-shaped** (new) for **only Fr. 9.90!**
6. ___ x Silver stamp **„170 years Mauritius“** (999/1000 fine silver, proof) for **only Fr. 10.-!**
7. ___ x Swiss silver coin **„Matterhorn“** (999/1000 fine silver, 20 grams, proof) for **only Fr. 20.-** instead of Fr. 89.90!

Swiss silver coin „Matterhorn“

7.

Ø 40 mm

Fr. 20.-
instead of Fr. 89.90

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The most famous stamp of the world

„170 years Mauritius“ in 999/1000 fine silver!

Original size: 21 x 25 mm

only
Fr. 10.-

6.

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- Highest quality of coinage: proof!
- Restricted edition: only 5.000 pieces!